



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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December 3, 2010

Governor's Office, Mike Volesky; mvolesky@mt.gov
Environmental Quality Council, Maureen Theisen, mtheisen@mt.gov
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tom Ellerhof, tellerhof@mt.gov
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
MT Historical Society, SHIPO, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
Montana Wildlife Federation; csharpe@mtwf.org
Montana Audubon; jellis@mtaudubon.org
Montana Environmental Information Center; meic@meic.org
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 4, Bruce Auchly (e-mail)
Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex, John Sprague (e-mail)
Others

RE: GFSSC Decision Notice

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding a Shooting Range Grant proposal to provide funds to the Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex (GFSSC) located three miles north of Great Falls, Montana. The proposal requested \$34,175 in partial funding towards installing four traps in existing skeet fields and to make improvements to the pistol range.

The EA was available for public comment from August 30, 2010 to September 17, 2010. A press release was sent out of the FWP Region 4 office on August 31, 2010 and legal ads ran in the *Great Falls Tribune* on September 8 and 12, 2010.

Public Comments

Only one comment was received during public comment period, which is noted below with FWP's response.

“We had a concern about the proposal from the Great Falls Shooting Complex to install four trap fields. We have fourteen trap fields at the Great Falls Trap and Skeet Club. Once every four years we host the State Shoot which lasts five days and during which all fourteen fields are used daily. Each year we have two or three ATA registered shoots lasting two days, a spring and fall league lasting from five to twelve weeks (they shoot one night a week), monthly meat shoots for seven months and normal Wednesday/Sunday open shooting. During all these activities we use two to seven fields. I feel that the Great Falls Trap and Skeet Club offer the Great Falls area residents a more than ample opportunity to shoot trap. The addition of four more trap fields will do nothing to enhance shooting opportunities in this area. It may actually dilute the available shooters at each facility and make it financially difficult to run each club.”

FWP Response: The shooting range grant program has funded grants for multiple shooting ranges in the same community, during the same grant period. FWP acknowledges this concern but has not experienced a reduction in the use of ranges funded in other similar situations. FWP depends on applicants to determine if the needs for additional shooting range enhancements exist for their communities.

Decision:

Based on public comment and internal review, it is my decision to proceed with preferred alternative A. FWP will grant the GFSSC \$34,175 in partial funding for this proposed project, pending GFSSCs completion of other administrative procedures under the Shooting Range Development Program.

Sincerely,

Letter with signature on file

Kurt Cunningham
Shooting Range Grant Coordinator